

Cooperative Mexican fruit fly Eradication Project

San Diego County Agriculture Commissioner
California Department of Food and Agriculture
United States Department of Agriculture

To: Media
From: Public Information Office

Date: January 8, 2003
Pages: One

Subject: Information Update for Media... Final for Wednesday.

NOTE: NO TREATMENT WEDNESDAY NIGHT DUE TO RAIN. The first aerial treatment began on the evening of Tuesday, January 7, 2003, but winds delayed the start time, so treatments were not finished overnight. The rains today (Wednesday) are now forecast to continue into the evening, so no treatment will be done tonight. The application will continue on the next available night, weather permitting.

Survey

Delimitation survey trapping and fruit cutting is conducted to determine the geographic distribution of fly finds for eradication and quarantine purposes. Treatment and quarantine boundaries are changed only in response to new detections beyond already infested properties. The date of the last fly confirmation is 1/6/03. No additional confirmations were made today that impact treatment or quarantine area. The project is currently trapping 180 square miles.

Regulatory

A map of the official Mexican fruit fly quarantine is available at www.cdfa.ca.gov under the "Hot News Items" link. Maps are also available at project office on Valley Center Road. To date, 710 persons have signed compliance agreements covering approximately 10,949 acres of host crops. These agreements specify pre-harvest and post-harvest treatments allowing commodities to move in commerce. Hold notices have been placed on properties where adult flies or larvae have been found to prevent the spread of the pest.

Treatment

The first aerial treatment began on the evening of January 7, 2003, but winds delayed the start time, so treatments were not finished overnight. The rains today (Wednesday) are now forecast to continue into the evening, so no treatment is scheduled for tonight. The application will continue on the next available night, weather permitting. Subsequent treatments will be at 14-day intervals, weather permitting. Naturalyte (GF-120 NF, active ingredient: spinosad) has received all necessary approvals from state and federal agencies for use as an organic treatment, and is being used in the aerial eradication program. The treatment area is 28 square miles surrounding the sites where adult flies and larvae have been found.

Phonebank

Residents with questions may call 800-491-1899 from 8 am to 8 pm every day.

Meetings/Other

Growers, packers, shippers and others with questions about regulatory requirements may get information or sign compliance agreements to facilitate crop movement at the project headquarters located at the county maintenance yard just off Valley Center Road, near Cole Grade Road. Hours are 8 am to 4 pm Monday through Saturday, and closed Sunday.

News media may reach a project public affairs officer weekends and evenings by calling the project hotline 1-800-491-1899.